

# SUMMARY MINUTES

## ABAG CALFED Task Force Water Management Sub-Committee Meeting

March 17, 2003  
Conference Room B, 101 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland CA 94607-4756

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Ira Ruskin called the meeting to order at 11:30a.m. with introductions and welcomed all members present.

Attendance was as follows:

#### Members Present

Jean Auer  
Dave Briggs  
Amy Fowler  
Jared Huffman  
Yoriko Kishimoto  
Ellen Levin  
Mike Rippey  
Ira Ruskin (Chairman)  
Nicole Sandkulla  
Doug Wallace

#### Jurisdiction

San Francisco Estuary Project  
Contra Costa Water District  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
Marin Municipal Water District  
City of Palo Alto  
SF Public Utilities Commission  
County of Napa  
City of Redwood City  
Bay Area Water Users Association  
East Bay Municipal Utility District

#### Guests Present

Art Jenson  
Dave Richardson  
Dick Spees  
Rick Spees

BAWUA  
Raines, Melton & Carella, Inc.  
Councilmember, Dist. 4, City of Oakland  
Federal Lobbyist

#### ABAG/CALFED Staff Present

Terry Bursztynsky  
Cindy Darling  
Patrick Duffy  
Vina Maharaj  
Ken Moy  
Jeannie Perkins  
Mary Selkirk  
Kathleen Van Velsor

ABAG  
CALFED  
ABAG  
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ABAG  
CALFED  
ABAG

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **APPROVAL OF WATER MGMT. SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2003**

A general consensus was reached to approve the Summary Minutes of January 17, 2003, with a minor correction to be made to the list of attendees.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Terry Bursztynsky updated the members on the current rules that ABAG follows in communicating with members of ABAG-CALFED Task Force. Bursztynsky said that ABAG will continue to send out notification of all their meetings to all members of the ABAG-CALFED Task Force rather than only to members who belong to particular sub-committees. He said that this is the only way the Task Force can make sure all members are apprised of all issues pertaining to the task force.

## **ABAG STAFF RESPONSE TO SUB-COMMITTEE CONSENSUS LETTER ON SMART GROWTH AND WATER RESOURCES**

Chairman Ira Ruskin referred members to a handout in the Agenda packet, which was the staff's response to the consensus letter written by the Chairman of the Water Management Sub-Committee to the Chairman of the ABAG-CALFED Task Force on January 23, 2003.

The letter stated that ABAG staff could not prepare an analysis of Smart Growth related water demand as requested by ABAG-CALFED Water Management Sub-Committee members, however, ABAG staff understands the sub-committee's concerns and wishes to work cooperatively with the water agencies. ABAG proposed that as a starting point they engage in an analysis of water service needs on a district basis. Using this information, ABAG and the water agencies could jointly evaluate the impacts of projected levels of growth within their respective districts. As an initial step, ABAG staff would prepare a scope of work and estimate of cost (if any) to undertake the analysis.

Eugene Leong invited the members to attend ABAG Executive Board meeting on March 20, 2003 where he said the board will be considering adopting ABAG's Smart Growth Projections 2003. The revised Projections 2003 represents a significant change in ABAG's long range forecasting series. It is a departure from previous forecasts in that it includes policy based land use assumptions that comes from the Smart Growth/Regional Livability Footprint Project Vision.

There was a long discussion and various comments and questions were raised regarding how to go forward after the additional scope of work is completed, whether this technical analysis should be conducted under the CALFED scope of work, and which parties could make a use of it. Also there was a question on forecasting, potential costs and pricing.

One member said that he believed there was a fundamental lack of information on carrying capacity: When projections are derived from economic potential, they ignore constraints on water and energy.

## **CALFED BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY BUDGET NEWS AND ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES**

Mary Selkirk reported that CALFED was moving its offices to a new location. Selkirk provided the members with information on California Bay-Delta Authority's transition process, a proposed meeting schedule, legislative hearing calendar and a meeting notice of their Drinking Water Subcommittee. She said each program manager is working with the implementing agencies to develop a transition plan. The Year 4 program plans will describe the transition process. The California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee will continue to function as the public advisory body to the new authority.

Cindy Darling reported on Chapter 8 of Prop. 50 budget issue. She said \$500 million is split between the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board.

## **ALAMEDA COUNTY REQUEST FOR ABAG ASSISTANCE TO ENSURE LOCAL AND REGIONAL RESPONSE CAPABILITIES DURING EMERGENCY WATER OUTAGES**

Chairman Ira Ruskin introduced Art Jensen, General Manager of the Bay Area Water Users Association and invited him to speak on local and regional response capabilities during emergency water outages. Jensen said that a recent study revealed that after a major earthquake or a disaster, there could be portions of the Bay Area without water for up to sixty days. He said that smaller agencies could create outages of lesser amounts, but twenty days is too much for communities to withstand. He said that it is not only San Francisco but other systems have done or are in the process of doing their own earthquake vulnerability or reliability assessments. Jensen said that little planning has been done at this point with respect to how communities will react to a reduced amount of water.

A general discussion followed on many topics, as follows:

- What can utilities do? Prepare for disasters and rebuild their systems?
- Would ABAG be able and willing to assist?
- Santa Clara County is addressing the issue through their ongoing planning process.
- San Mateo County is gearing up to work with San Francisco and the cities and water agencies of the County on the water utility restoration aspect of it.
- Marin County uses "pumps on wheels" during power outages which seems to help them.
- The role of non-governmental organizations

Chairman Ruskin made a suggestion and a general consensus was reached that ABAG staff would prepare a recommendation of two or three speakers lined up to speak at a few future meetings which may be followed by a brainstorming session by water management sub-committee members if needed. This would educate members so they may be able to provide some initial thoughts and directions to ABAG.

## **PROJECT UPDATE ON THE BAY AREA WATER AGENCIES COALITION “ADVANCEMENTS IN WATER CONSERVATION” STUDY**

David A. Briggs, Principal Engineer of Contra Costa County provided an update on the “Advancements in Water Conservation Study.” He said that the motivation for this study grew from wanting to celebrate successful water conservation programs. The report from the seven participating agencies - EBMUD, Contra Costa, Alameda County, SCVWD, BAWUA, San Francisco and Zone 7 Water Agency includes:

- a compilation of their conservation data
- programs they have in place within their service area
- population data
- water use data broken out by residential, industrial, wholesale, retail and
- all past data back to pre-drought years through the present and projecting into the future to 2020 – 2030

Briggs said the first message of the briefing book is that there has been a lot of water conservation going on in the BAWAC region. compared with other metropolitan service areas in California and the West Coast, it is something to be proud of. The second fundamental message of the briefing book is that demand hardening is a real concept and that there is no infinite amount of conservation one can do without tradeoffs. The third message is that despite the demand hardening, challenges and technological barriers, conservation will increase significantly in the BAWAC region.

Briggs said that the briefing book will be available to the general managers at their meeting on April 14 and the executive summary and the database will be out shortly thereafter for water sub-committee members’ review.

Dave Richardson, the lead consultant on this project, added that it has been an informative, enlightening and a productive process to work with the seven different agencies while compiling data.

## **WATER BOND: PROPOSITION 50 IMPLEMENTATION AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mike Rippey updated the members with a brief report on his meeting with Bethany Westfall and subsequent discussions with Dennis O’Conner, both of whom work on Prop. 50 implementation. He said that there was a lot of support for regional approach but the question was how does one define the region. There were some concerns and resistance to Senate Bill 21 which would include language that would support regional implementation. The thoughts were that the regional concept needs to be advanced at every opportunity, to make sure there is strong language in SB21 and perhaps the next bill, SB750. The staff who are working on the language for the bill strongly feel that there needs to be a policy based set of recommendations in the bill to deal with allocating the funds in a more rational way.

## **PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE NORTH BAY COMMUNITIES IN BAWAC WATER CONSERVATION STUDY EFFORT. REPORT ON PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING A SCOPE OF WORK**

Kathleen Van Velsor reported on the Northern California effort and provided a draft Scope of Work to the members. Van Velsor reported that a lengthy outreach effort was made in recent months to staff and management of North Bay water agencies and public works departments. The work of the Task Force was described to them and their cooperation and assistance was requested in providing missing and essential water use availability and conservation data to correspond with South and East Bay efforts. Van Velsor reported that each was willing to assist with a coordinated data collection effort. The draft scope of work was initially prepared with the assistance of Jared Huffman and revised after the outreach effort. It was provided to RMC at the request of CALFED staff.

## **OTHER BUSINESS/MEMBER INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

Dick Spees, ex-Councilmember, Dist. 4 of the City of Oakland and Rick Spees, federal lobbyist spoke briefly about how they think that the Water Management Sub-Committee and the CALFED Task Force need to focus on appropriations and federal legislations, particularly opportunities for funding under Homeland Security legislation. They are happy to work with the members on funding strategies

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Ruskin announced a first meeting of the Regional Financing Authority on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. He said he will be representing the City of Redwood City. Jean Auer from Friends of the Estuary has been chosen to represent the City of Hillsborough and Bern Beecham, Council Member from the City of Palo Alto, will represent the City of Palo Alto. Chairman Ruskin will bring back a report from this meeting to the next Water Management Sub-Committee meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

/vm